

**TESTIMONY OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE
BEFORE THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON INLAND
FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE**

IN OPPOSITION to L.D. 254

**LD TITLE: Resolve, To Establish the Northern Maine Advisory Task
Force on Deer**

**SPONSORED BY: Senator JACKSON of Aroostook
COSPONSORED BY: Representative AYOTTE of Caswell, Senator
DUTREMBLE of York, Representative SHAW of Standish**

DATE OF HEARING: March 12, 2013

Good afternoon Senator Dutremble, Representative Shaw and members of the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee. I am Andrea Erskine, Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, speaking in opposition to L.D. 254.

L.D. 254 proposes to establish the Northern Maine Advisory Task Force on Deer. The task force would be charged with examining deer predation and ways to improve the deer population in northern Maine.

In 2006, the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife created **The Northern and Eastern Maine Deer Task Force** by legislative resolve. In 2007, the task force reported its findings and recommendations to the Committee. Since reporting to the Committee, **The Northern and Eastern Maine Deer Task Force** has met annually to review department progress in attaining its deer management objectives.

http://www.maine.gov/ifw/wildlife/surveys_reports/index.htm

In addition, with the input of many stakeholders concerned about deer numbers, the Department developed **Maine's Game Plan for Deer: A Plan to Increase Maine's Northern, Eastern, and Western Deer Herd**. The Department presented the plan's strategies to the Committee in 2011. Updates on many of the action items were presented to the Committee earlier this year.

http://www.maine.gov/ifw/hunting_trapping/hunting/deer_game_plan.htm

LD 1569 created the **Deer Predation Advisory Group** in 2011. The group presented a report to the Committee in January of 2012. The Department's Deer Predation Management Program was implemented based on that group's report. The Committee received an update on that effort earlier this year.

These combined efforts direct the department's deer management efforts and we feel negate the need for another deer management advisory committee.

I would be glad to answer any questions at this time or during the work session.